HARD DRIVES FOR MAC MINI COMPARED

Company	Product	Rating	Contact	Price[A]	Price per GB	Connectors (No.)	Other Capacities	Pros	Cons	Comments	LAB TEST Copy 1GB to Drive	LAB TEST Duplicate 1GB on Drive	LAB TEST Low Memory PhotoShop CS Suite
LaCie	mini FireWire 400 Companion Hard Drive, 250GB	4	www.lacie.com	$200	$0.80	FireWire 400 (2)	80GB, $120; 160GB, $150	Fast; can boot OS X using FireWire; very low price per gigabyte.	No USB 2.0 ports.	Unlike the other hard drives for the Mac mini, this hard drive isn't a USB and FireWire hub and a desktop hard drive. However, it gets the job done very well.	0:47	**1:20**	**1:37**
MicroNet	miniMate 7,200 rpm FireWire + USB 2.0 Hard Drive & Integrated FireWire and USB Hub, 80GB	4	www.micronet.com	$135	$1.69	FireWire 400 (3), USB 2.0 (4)	160GB, $170; 250GB, $200; 400GB, $545	Can boot OS X using FireWire; integrated USB 2.0 and FireWire hub.	Modest capacity, though other capacities are available; high cost per gigabyte.	Its integrated USB and FireWire hub makes this a good, if expensive, drive for Mac mini owners looking to increase their disk space and gain more connection options.	0:53	1:37	2:00

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Newer Technology	**miniStack 7,200 rpm, 320GB ***	4	www.newertech.com	$260	$0.81	FireWire 400 (3), USB 2.0 (4)	80GB, $140; 160GB, $180; 250GB, $220; 400GB, $360; 500GB, $480	Can boot OS X using FireWire; integrated USB 2.0 and FireWire hub; large capacity; includes Retrospect Express; low cost per gigabyte.	None significant.	Great features make the miniStack our Top Product pick of hard drives designed for the Mac mini. It has plenty of ports, as well as a fan that can be controlled via switches on the back of the unit.	**0:46**	1:45	1:49
											<Better	<Better	<Better

* = Top Product. [A]All prices shown are the manufacturers' suggested retail prices.

How We Tested All speeds are in minutes:seconds. We ran all tests with the FireWire drives connected to a dual-2.5GHz Power Mac G5 with Mac OS X 10.3.7 installed and 512MB of RAM. All drives were tested using FireWire 800, unless it was unavailable; in those cases, we used FireWire 400. We copied a folder containing 1GB of data from our Mac's hard drive to the external hard drive to test the drive's read speed. We then duplicated that file on the external drive to test both read and write speeds. We also used the drive as a scratch disk when running our low-memory Adobe Photoshop CS Suite test. This test is a set of four tasks performed on a 150MB file, with Photoshop's memory set to 50 percent.**—Macworld Lab Testing by James Galbraith and Jerry Jung**

BEST RESULTS IN **BOLD**.